

Golden Gate Audubon Society Newsletter

Volume 79, No. 1 January 1997

## Success in Alameda!

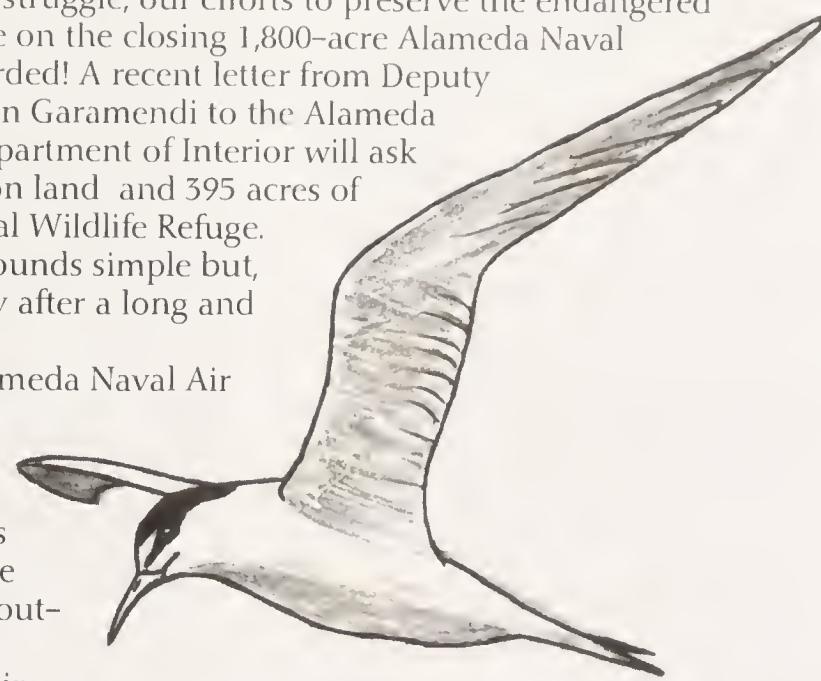
by Arthur Feinstein

**A**fter two years of doubt and struggle, our efforts to preserve the endangered California Least Tern's home on the closing 1,800-acre Alameda Naval Air Station have been rewarded! A recent letter from Deputy Secretary of the Interior John Garamendi to the Alameda Reuse Authority states that the Department of Interior will ask the Navy for 525 acres of Air Station land and 395 acres of water for preservation as a National Wildlife Refuge. Navy concurrence is assumed. It sounds simple but, in fact, this happy result came only after a long and hard two-year struggle.

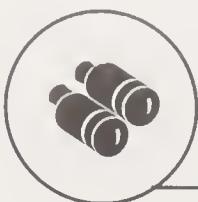
In 1994, we learned that the Alameda Naval Air Station was to be closed. We at GGAS knew how rich a wildlife resource this Air Station was because we had helped monitor its California Least Tern colony. But we also realized that very few people outside our chapter knew about the wonderful wildlife located at the Air Station. If we did not act, we knew that development forces would destroy the colony. For as soon as Base closure was announced, the talk turned to housing and industry, not wildlife, to replace the Navy.

So in March 1994, in conjunction with the College of Alameda, we held a full-day scientific symposium on the natural resources of the Alameda Naval Air Station. Eleven well-respected scientists presented papers at this symposium and revealed a resource even more impressive than we had imagined. Not only did the Air Station support one of the most important and most successful breeding colonies of the California Least Tern (an endangered bird with only 2,000 breeding pairs in existence), but also the largest breeding colony of Caspian Terns on the entire West Coast of North America.

A breakwater just off the Air Station grounds provides the Bay's only night roosting site for the California Brown Pelican, a shy bird that needs the isolation the Navy provided by forbidding all human activity near this breakwater (thus the Refuge request for 395 acres of water to assure the continued isolation of this area). Harbor seals haul out on this breakwater, and the second largest nesting colony of Western Gulls also



*Continued on page 4*



October 27 to November 27

This Observation period was again characterized by the continuing presence and abundance of many montane species in many counties within our region. This abundance was consistent with an "invasion" throughout the entire state. Species such as Red Crossbill and Evening Grosbeak were most numerous in some areas with Cassin's Finches, Clark's Nutcrackers, and Townsend's Solitaire also being reported from many locations.

## Albatross to Geese

Pelagic trips to the Cordell Banks provided the highest numbers of Albatross this month, with 57 Black-footed Albatross and two Laysan Albatross reported on Nov 2 (DLSH). This same trip also reported a high of 85 Buller's Shearwaters. This species was also noted from shore in San Mateo and Sonoma counties. Flesh-footed Shearwaters remained scarce, with single birds on Monterey Bay, Oct 26, 27, and 28 while the aforementioned trip to the Cordell Banks reported a total of three birds. Even more unusual was a single bird seen from Pigeon Point, SM, on Nov 14 (BMK), as this species is rarely seen from shore. Up to 20 Short-tailed Shearwaters were also reported at the Cordell Banks, Nov 2 (DLSH). While many Black-vented Shearwaters were recorded along the coast, a report of up to 5,000 observed off the Santa Cruz Lighthouse, SCZ, on Nov 18 (JS), was certainly the most interesting.

Correcting a previous report is usually not pleasant, but some-

times it is necessary. A Pterodroma species observed on a Cordell Bank trip in August (which also recorded a Dark-Rumped Petrel) was initially reported as a Murphy's Petrel. After further examination and discussion, an "almost unanimous decision" is that the bird seen was in fact a **Great-winged Petrel**, a species of the extreme Southern Hemisphere oceans off Australia, New Zealand, and South Africa (30-50 degrees south latitude). Photographs of this bird were examined by many experts who came to this conclusion based on field marks discernible, including color of the underwing, bill size, head shape, and wing length (per JD). This species has never been recorded in the U.S. and was not considered a likely candidate. It just shows that anything can turn up on the sea.

Reports of Eurasian Wigeon continued from Marin, San Mateo, Alameda, and Solano counties. A pair of Eurasian Green-winged Teal were found in Modoc County on Nov 3 (SG). Oldsquaw were reported in Contra Costa, San Mateo, and Marin counties, while a Harlequin Duck was seen at the Fish Docks, MRN, on Nov 23 (LL), possibly one of the birds which wintered at that location in previous years. Hooded Mergansers were numerous this month with Barrow's Goldeneye also reported from the traditional haunts in Alameda, San Mateo, and Santa Clara. Stray Ross's Geese were also reported from many locations.

## Sandpipers to Hawks

An extremely late

Semipalmated Sandpiper was at Skaggs Island in Napa on Nov 10 (KB). Up to three Pectoral Sandpipers remained at the Pescadero March, SM, through the early part of the month with records of single birds coming from Marin, Santa Clara, and Monterey during this same time.

Mountain Plovers were reported again this year from their traditional wintering stronghold near Davis in Yolo County with a "large flock" found towards the end of November. Three birds found at the end of Limantour Spit, PRNS, on Nov 21 (RS) were an interesting coastal record. Pacific Golden Plover were found at various locations during the month, including up to five birds at the Spelta Plateau, PRNS, four at Lawsons Landing, MRN (RS), five near Moss Landing, MTY, Nov 3 (per MPRBA), and singles near Pigeon Point, SM (DSg), and at the Woodland Ponds, Yolo. A winter plumaged Ruff was at the CCRS, SCC, on Nov 2 (NL).

Gull highlights this month include an adult **Little Gull** found with many Bonaparte's Gulls at Sunset State Beach in Santa Cruz on Nov 9 (per MPRBA). It was not seen after it moved south with the flock. A Glaucous Gull was reported from Lake Folsom in El Dorado County on Nov 11. A Common Tern at Crab Cove in Alameda on Nov 2 was late (PG). Up to six Xantus's Murrelets were seen during a pelagic trip to the Davidson Seamount on Oct 28 (DLSH).

A Northern Goshawk was banded at Hawk Hill in the Marin Headlands on Nov 6 (CF) capping off a good season for this species at that location (three records).

Rough-legged Hawks were scarce, with single birds reported from various locations during this period.

## Sapsuckers to Longspurs

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker's were well reported, with continuing birds present in Santa Clara (Ed Levin CP and Arastradero Preserve) and additional birds in San Mateo, Phipps Ranch (BMK), Alameda, Mills College (KS), San Francisco, Strybing Arboretum, GGP (SC).

A total of eight Tropical Kingbirds were recorded with birds in San Mateo, Monterey, Sonoma, and an interesting report of one present in Solano County on Nov 24 (RL). A late Ash-throated Flycatcher was at the Pajaro River, SCZ, on Nov 6 (per MPRBA) while another late species was a Hammond's Flycatcher at Inverness, MRN on Nov 17 (KB, RS). Clark's Nutcrackers were another of the montane species reported from many coastal and inland counties, including Marin, Monterey, and San Mateo.

Yet another **Gray Catbird** was on SEFI early this month, capping off a good year for this species in Northern California. A **Wagtail Sp.**, as yet identified only as either a Black-backed or White Wagtail, was present at the mouth of Pine Gulch Creek, Bolinas, on Nov 16 (KH, BS).

The Prothonotary Warbler, first found on Oct 12 in San Francisco, remained through Oct 30. Single Tennessee Warblers were reported from SEFI, Marin and San Mateo counties with a single report of Lucy's Warbler at the AMSP, MTY,

on Nov 12 (per MPRBA). A Blackburnian Warbler was at the Carmel River Mouth, MTY, on Nov 6 (per MPRBA).

Northern Waterthrush were reported again from the Carmel River Mouth, with additional birds found at Bodega Bay, SON, on Oct 30 to Nov 16 and at Alviso, SCC, on Nov 24 (AE). A **Painted Redstart**, a first county record and one of only a handful of records in Northern California, was found in Carmel, MTY, on Oct 31 (per MPRBA). This bird remained through Nov 3.

An Orchard Oriole was at the AMSP, MTY, on Nov 16 (per MPRBA). A Summer Tanager found at San Francisquita Creek in Santa Clara on Oct 30/ Nov 1 is possibly the same returning bird which overwintered at this location last winter. An additional bird was found at the Carmel River on Nov 6 (per MPRBA).

A Rose-breasted Grosbeak was reported Nov 20 in San Benito County (JS). Evening Grosbeaks continued to be well reported in many counties, with birds seen this month in San Francisco, San Mateo, Marin, and Monterey.

A Green-tailed Towhee at Pacifica, SM, on Nov 10 was an interesting coastal record (DSg), as was an immature Lark Bunting from Nov 8 to 13 at the Shoreline Amphitheater parking lot, SCC (SR mob).

A Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow was at the Palo Alto Baylands, SCC, on Nov 23 (JM), a traditional location to find this species in winter. American Tree Sparrows showed up in Siskiyou County on Nov 2 (SG) with another

The monthly *Observation* column is generated from reports made to the Northern California Bird Box and Monterey Peninsula Rare Bird Alert (MPRBA) or to the author. Some sightings are unconfirmed, and numbers of birds are often best regarded as estimates or "best guesses". In general, birds in boldface are very rare in our region, geographically or seasonally. Many of these are currently reviewed by the California Bird Records Committee (CBRC). Observers are encouraged to provide written and/or photographic documentation to the CBRC, c/o Michael Patten, P.O. Box 51959, Riverside, CA 92517-2959 for any species currently on the review list. A list of review species can also be obtained from the CBRC secretary at the address above.

This data is made possible by all the observers who contributed their reports to the Northern California Bird Box. If anybody has photos of birds reported in this column and would be interested in letting us post them on our web site or in the GULL, we would be very appreciative. Please feel free to contact me to discuss.

**Abbreviations for Observers:** SC, Scott Cox; KB, Ken Burton; JD, Jim Danzenbaker; AE, Al Eisner; CF, Carter Faust; PG, Phil Gordon; SG, Steve Glover; KH, Keith Hansen; LL, Leslie Lieurance; BMK, Bert McKee; JM, Joe Morlan; RP, Roy Poucher; NL, Nick Lethaby; RL, Robin Leung; SR, Steve Rottenborn; DLSH, Debra Love Shearwater; DSg, Dan Singer; RS, Rich Stallcup; JS, John Sterling; BS, Bob Stewart, KS, Kurt Swenson; RF, Ron Thorn.

**Abbreviations for counties:** ALA, Alameda; CC, Contra Costa; HUM, Humboldt; MRN, Marin; MEN, Mendocino; MTY, Monterey; SF, San Francisco; SJ, San Joaquin; SM, San Mateo; SCL, Santa Clara; SON, Sonoma; YOL, Yolo.

**Other abbreviations used:** AMSP, Andrew Molera State Park, Monterey; CCRS, Coyote Creek Riparian Station; PRNS, Point Reyes National Seashore, Marin; SEFI, South East Farallon Islands, San Francisco.

er in San Francisco on Nov 16 (JM). Single Clay-colored Sparrows were reported from Monterey and Marin counties during the month.

In addition to a bird on the SEFI in early November, a **Snow Bunting** was also present in Humboldt County on Nov 10 (RP).

Up to seven Chestnut-collared Longspur were present at PRNS, MRN, on Nov 2 (RS), and with two birds in Monterey County and San Mateo (RT). Lapland Longspurs were also reported with up to three birds in San Mateo and two PRNS. A **McCown's Longspur** was found in Placer County on Nov 24, this location being an irregular wintering spot for this species.

## Success in Alameda!

makes its home there.

Why is this place so special? Our symposium revealed that this part of the bay has greater fish resources than any other. Nearby eelgrass provides nursery grounds for many fish species, and the clear water entering through the Golden Gate keeps this area very attractive to fish. The eelgrass beds have densities of life greater than those found in any other Bay in the state.

Overwhelmed by the evidence, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service immediately proposed the creation of an Alameda National Wildlife Refuge and stated that its size should be 595 acres of land and 395 acres of waters around the breakwater.

This wealth of life was not enough, however, to convince the development community who fiercely opposed the proposal. They could not understand how land that was largely concrete (the Air Station runways) could be made into a refuge. Yet, it was the very presence of those runways that made the Least Tern colony so successful. The greatest threat to any tern colony is predation. The terns seek out wide, open flat expanses that allow them to see predators approaching. The Air Station is perfect for that. Raptors do not associate concrete with food. Instead, they forage on the perimeter of the runways, where the grasslands support large numbers of small mammals.

Even after revealing these biological truths, intense opposition

continued. To rebut charges that a refuge would deprive the community of income, resource economist Dr. Robert Hrubes analyzed the economic benefits of a refuge. Recent studies have shown bird-watching to be an \$18 billion industry. Hrubes' study showed that an Alameda National Wildlife Refuge could generate \$14 million annually for the entire Bay Area, \$4 million for the East Bay, and \$2 million for Alameda. These figures were very conservative and could be greater if any substantial effort was made to attract eco-tourists.

We had science, economics, and passion on our side!

Finally, after much debating over the size of the refuge, our efforts were rewarded! A 525-acre refuge is going to be established. This was the result of the effort of hundreds of people who spent their weekends getting thousands of signatures on petitions in support of the Refuge and who went to endless meetings and testified in favor of the Refuge. It was the result of efforts not only by GGAS but by the Sierra Club, ARC Ecology, and many other environmental organizations, not to mention the San Francisco Foundation who helped us publish our economics study. And it took place because of the willingness of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to base its decision on good science and not political pressure. We are grateful to all of you who made this happen and who have given the California Least Tern, the Brown Pelican, the

Caspian Tern, and all the other wildlife on the Station a chance to survive.

*P.S. - If you would like to thank John Garamendi for his wonderful decision to give us the 525 acres, it would be greatly appreciated. You can send your letter to:*

**John Garamendi, Deputy  
Secretary of the Interior  
U.S. Dept. of the Interior  
1849 C Street NW  
Room 5110  
Washington D.C. 20240**

### But this is not the end of the story!

To keep this Refuge a safe home for the Least Tern, it will require intensive management, which will cost lots of money. Education and interpretive programs also need to be developed. GGAS can play an important role in this. We have already dedicated \$25,000 from our Sanctuary Fund to help make this refuge a reality, but we'll need more money and lots of GGAS volunteer effort to make it work. In fact, we need you.

We have established a GGAS Alameda National Wildlife Refuge Committee and have just held our first few meetings. Our goal is to help the Refuge ensure the future of the California Least Tern and to establish the best interpretive/educational program in any Refuge in the nation. Join us and make that goal come true. Call the GGAS Office at 510-843-2222, and we'll put you on our mailing list for future meetings.

## Holiday Vacation's Over, it's Back to School

### Birds of the Pacific Flyway

Join Dan Murphy for three lectures and two field trips to discover the habitats and field identification of many of the birds that visit the San Francisco Bay Area during the fall, winter, and spring. Slides and some skins will be used to help beginning and intermediate birders identify and enjoy the marvelous diversity of the Bay Area's avifauna. The trips will go to Palo Alto Baylands and to Lake Merced. GGAS members qualify for the Academy Members' discount.

**CLASSES:** Tuesdays, Jan. 14, 21, and 28; 7-9 p.m.

**FIELD TRIPS:** Saturdays, Jan. 18 and 25

**COST:** \$65 members/ \$75 non-members

To register, please note the name of the class, your name, mailing address, and evening phone number. Include a self-addressed envelope and send it to: Adult Education, California Academy of Sciences, Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, CA 94118. For more info. call the Adult Ed. Dept. at (415) 750-7100.

### Field Ornithology

Evening bird classes taught by Joe Morlan through San Francisco City College will be starting February 4, 5, and 6. All classes meet 7-9:30 p.m. in room 222, Marina Middle School, 3500 Fillmore at Bay St. Free parking is

in the lot off Bay St. on the east side of the building. Slides illustrate all classes, and the text for all classes is *A Field Guide to Birds of North America*, second edition, by the National Geographic Society.

**Field Ornithology I** meets on Tuesdays. It is an introduction to birds and birding, combining basic field skills with the study of bird ecology, biology, and behavior. Part A (EA101) starts February 4 and ends March 18; Part B (EA105) starts April 1 and ends May 13.

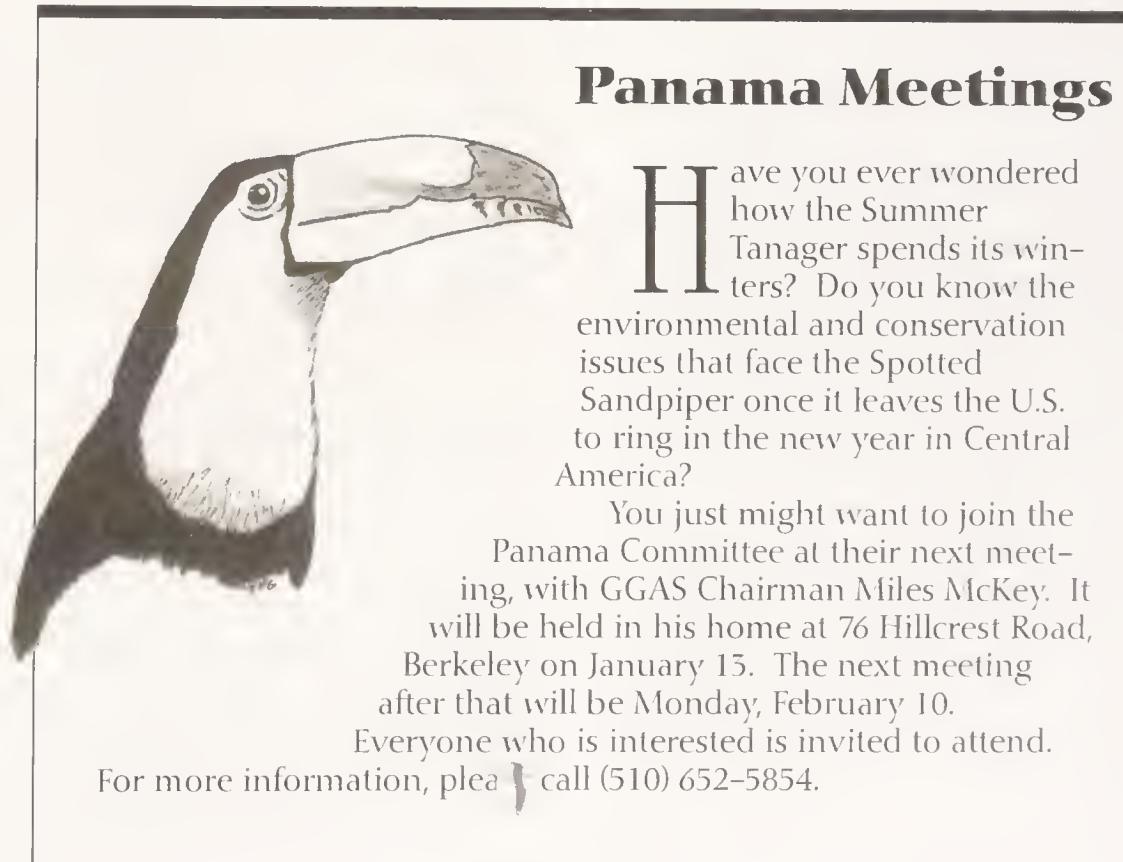
**Field Ornithology II** meets on Wednesdays. It is a continuing in-depth study of the identification and status of North American land birds, including

thrushes, thrashers, vireos, and warblers. Part A (EA110) starts February 5 and ends March 19; part B (EA115) starts April 2 and ends May 14.

**Field Ornithology III** meets on Thursdays. It is a continuing study of water birds, including gulls, terns, and alcids. Part A (EA120) starts February 6 and ends March 20; Part B (EA125) starts April 3 and ends May 15.

These classes are endorsed by GGAS. Optional field trips on weekends may be arranged by the instructor. Please bring binoculars and field guides to class if you have them.

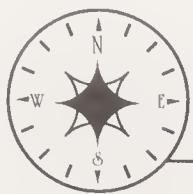
Fees are \$80 for each seven-week course. For enrollment and info. call (415) 561-1860.



### Panama Meetings

Have you ever wondered how the Summer Tanager spends its winters? Do you know the environmental and conservation issues that face the Spotted Sandpiper once it leaves the U.S. to ring in the new year in Central America?

You just might want to join the Panama Committee at their next meeting, with GGAS Chairman Miles McKey. It will be held in his home at 76 Hillcrest Road, Berkeley on January 13. The next meeting after that will be Monday, February 10. Everyone who is interested is invited to attend. For more information, please call (510) 652-5854.



# Field Trips Calendar

**G**AS field trips are conducted by experienced birders who wish to share their knowledge and love of birds with others. All trips are free of charge (except for entrance fees that may be charged by regional, state, or national parks) and are open to everyone, regardless of membership in the National Audubon Society or Golden Gate chapter.

## **SATURDAY, JANUARY 4, 1997. SANDHILL CRANES!**

We will go to the San Joaquin Delta to see our wintering Sandhill Cranes. These are members of the *Grus canadensis tabida* subspecies, the Greater Sandhill Crane. There are only about 7,000 cranes in the Central Valley population. They are among the largest of the Sandhills, standing over one meter tall with a wingspan of two meters. They will make their clacking sounds, and they will dance before our eyes. It will be a sight worthy of photography. We will also see ducks, swans, and other wintering birds. Expect icy, damp, and foggy weather. Wind possible. Gloves recommended. Meet at the Orinda BART station parking lot at 8:30 a.m. It's over an hour's drive from there, one way. We'll buy lunch at some gourmet spot near Isleton; too cold to picnic. Harry Fuller is leading this exciting new trip. Call him at (415) 668-8229 for details, carpooling. (\*)

## **WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 8, 1997. MINI-TRIP TO ARROWHEAD MARSH.**

Meet at 9:30 a.m. at the marsh. Take Hwy 880 (Nimits) to the Hegenberger Rd. exit. Drive west to Doolittle Drive and turn right. Go a short distance and turn right again onto Swan Way. Turn left after a block and follow the sign to the marsh. Beginners and all welcome. Leaders: Anna Wilcox (510)351-9301 and Jean-Marie Spoelman.

## **SATURDAY, JANUARY 11, 1997. PALO ALTO BAYLANDS**

Meet at 8:00 a.m. Take Hwy. 101 south to Palo Alto; exit at Embarcadero and drive east toward the airport and the Baylands Nature Center. Continue beyond the airport to the duck pond (on the left) and park at the east end. Bring lunch, scope, and clothes appropriate for rain and mud. We should see waterfowl, rails, and shorebirds. Trip will end about mid-afternoon.

Leader: Dan Murphy (415) 564-0074. (\*)

## **SUNDAY, JANUARY 12, 1997. LAS GALLINAS SEWER PONDS, MARIN COUNTY**

Meet at 9:00 a.m. for this new half-day trip to see a variety of ducks and shorebirds in Marin County. Take 101 north and exit at Lucas Valley Drive/Smith Ranch Road. Go east on Smith Ranch Road to the end. Take a sharp left to the sewage treatment

ponds, just before the county park. Drive pass the headquarters, continuing on to the parking lot on the left. Meet at the parking lot. Bring water. Rusty Scalf will introduce us to this wonderful birding location. (510) 595-8319. (\*)

## **SUNDAY, JANUARY 19, 1997. UPPER SAN LEANDRO RESERVOIR, MORAGA**

Meet at 9:00 a.m. in the Valle Vista Staging Area for a one-half day trip. Take Hwy. 24 to Orinda and exit on Moraga Hwy. Continue approximately 4 miles to Canyon Road. Turn right at the traffic signal and continue 1.2 miles to the Valle Vista Staging area on the left. Grassy hills, pines, oaks, and open water provide varied habitats for land birds and waterfowl. Bring water. Rain cancels. Leader: Bob Lewis (510) 845-5001. (\*)

## **SUNDAY, JANUARY 26, 1997. LAS GALLINAS SEWER PONDS, MARIN COUNTY**

Meet at 9:00 a.m. Take 101 north and exit at Lucas Valley Drive/Smith Ranch Road. Go east on Smith Ranch Road, turn left just before the county park and proceed to the entrance where parking is available. We will begin this trip by birding the road before the parking lot. We should see a variety of wintering shorebirds and waterfowl. Trip will end by 1:00 p.m. Bring water and snacks. Rain cancels. Leader: Jeffrey Black (510) 526-7068. (\*)

## Thanks to All the Many Supporters of the Bird Box

by Arthur Feinstein

One of the services Golden Gate Audubon Society provides to its members and the public at large is the Northern California Bird Box. Formerly called the Rare Bird Alert, this service is a computerized phone system that allows birders to notify fellow birders of any unusual bird sightings that are made in Northern California.

To provide this service, GGAS pays for two phone lines, the computer and phone equipment. The volunteer labor of Joe Morlan, who established and monitors the program, makes this Bird Box one of the most effective and well known in the nation.

We recently ran out of money for the Bird Box, but a notice on the Bird Box soon alerted birders to GGAS's financial need, and the results were heart-warming. As you can see from our Gifts column, the Bird Box is used and beloved by many. We thank all of you for your financial support.

Donations are always needed and welcome. Simply send a check, made out to Golden Gate Audubon and memoed "For the Bird Box," to the GGAS Office. Thanks.

### SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 1997. PANOCHE VALLEY

Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the intersection of Hwy. 25 and J-1 in Paicines, 12.5 miles south of Hollister. From there we will drive east to I-5 south of Los Banos. This trip traverses raptor habitat which usually produces Golden Eagle, Merlin, and Prairie Falcon, plus Mountain Bluebirds, Phainopeplas and Vesper Sparrows. Considering the distance involved in this trip, be sure to fill your gas tank before leaving Hollister, and carpool from the Bay Area if possible. Bring lunch and warm clothes. Heavy rain cancels. Leader: Chris Carpenter (510) 569-9281 day, (510) 547-2201 eve. (\*)

### SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 1997. LAKE MERRITT

Meet at 9:00 a.m. at Grand Ave. and El Embarcadero by the Greek Colonade. This is an excellent opportunity to observe wintering ducks and grebes at close range and to study their field identification. This trip is recommended for beginners and is wheelchair accessible. Bring binoculars, scope, and field guide if you have them. Trip ends at noon. Rain cancels. Leader: Joan Zawaski (415) 433-1700 days; (510) 530-2427 eve. (\*)

### SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 1997. McCCLAREN PARK, CANDLESTICK POINT, SO. SF

Meet at 8:30 a.m. at McLaren Park at the intersection of

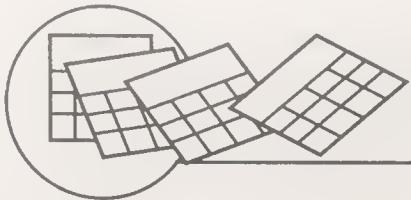
Cambridge and John F. Shelley Drive. We should see Bewick's Wren, Western Meadowlark, and other "common" birds we don't often see in the City. We will then caravan to Candlestick Point Recreation Area where there will be ducks, shorebirds and possibly Peregrine Falcon. Leader: Alan Hopkins (415) 664-0983. (\*)

### WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 1997. MINI-TRIP TO COYOTE HILLS REGIONAL PARK

Meet at 9:00 a.m. in the parking lot by the Visitors' Center at the end of the road. From the East Bay take I-880 south to Newark and turn right at Rt. 84/Dumbarton Bridge exit. Continue west and exit on Paseo Padre Pkwy. Turn right and continue north one mile to Patterson Ranch Rd. and follow the signs to Coyote Hills. We will be looking for three species of teal and other wintering waterfowl. Bring lunch and a scope if you have one. Leaders: Anna Wilcox (510) 351-9301 & Jean-Marie Spoelman. \$ (\*)

Trips marked with a (\$) go to parks or other sites that require an entrance fee.

Carpooling arrangements will be attempted for trips marked with a (\*). Problems, etc.: If you need a ride or can take a passenger, if you need information and have difficulty reaching a field trip leader, if you have suggestions for trips, or if you are interested in leading a trip, call Lillian Fujii, Field Trips Committee Chair, (510) 236-4167.



# January Meeting

## Freshwater Dolphins of the Amazon

Largely unexplored, the Amazon region holds many secrets and wonders. One of these is the dolphins which live in the forests of South America.

John Dillon, curator of Natural Science at the Randall Museum, led a recent trip to the Pacaya-Sairia Reserve of Peru collecting field data on the two species of freshwater dolphins that inhabit the flooded forests of the upper Amazon. He will be joining us at our January meeting to discuss the evolution and status of these species and their aquatic forest home as well as the impacts of international conservation programs and oil exploration on the native peoples in the area.

So leave your scuba gear behind and join us for this dry, but fascinating look at these interesting creatures.



Thursday

January 9

7:30 p.m.

The Josephine Randall Museum

199 Museum Way, San Francisco

### A Look To The Future

Mark your calendars now for our February meeting, on Thursday the 13th in Berkeley, when we'll be visited by Patricia Winters for those great flying mammals - BATS! Look in February's *Gull* for more details.

### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

As a member of National Audubon Society, you are enrolled in the local chapter, Golden Gate Audubon Society. Chapter benefits include receipt of *The Gull*, access to field trips, and the opportunity to volunteer. Call the office if you have any questions.

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(415) 681-7422

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The Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc. was established January 15, 1917, and became a chapter of National Audubon in 1948. *The Gull* deadline is the first of the month for the following month's issue and July 15th for the September issue.

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